UNITED NATIONS **E**

Economic and Social Council

Distr.
LIMITED

E/AC.51/1995/L.3/Add.18
9 June 1995

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

COMMITTEE FOR PROGRAMME AND
COORDINATION
Thirty-fifth session
15 May-9 June 1995
Agenda item 8

ADOPTION OF THE REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON ITS THIRTY-FIFTH SESSION

Draft report

Addendum

Rapporteur: Mr. Hisham ELZIMAITY (Egypt)

PROPOSED PROGRAMME BUDGET FOR THE BIENNIUM 1996-1997

Section 15. Economic Commission for Africa

1. At its 18th meeting, on 30 May, the Committee for Programme and Coordination considered section 15, Economic Commission for Africa, of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1996-1997.

Discussion

2. Several delegations expressed concern at the continued decline in resources, in particular extrabudgetary resources, and the negative impact this could have on programme delivery, especially on the implementation of mandated activities, as well as technical cooperation projects.

3. Several delegations expressed the hope that within the proposed level of resources the secretariat of the Economic Commission for Africa would be able to implement its programmed activities, as contained in the proposed programme budget. They welcomed the reorganization of the secretariat which, with renewed efforts, they hoped would facilitate implementation of the Commission's

mandates. They expected the secretariat to compensate for the decline in extrabudgetary resources by increasing the level of resources proposed from the regular budget. They expressed the view that, in the face of the magnitude of Africa's problems and the enormous efforts the countries of the region were making, the United Nations and the international community should do more to assist Africa. Other delegations said that not enough was being done to streamline existing subprogrammes and to prioritize the use of resources. They could not therefore support the introduction of more posts to be funded from the regular budget. New requirements must be met within existing resources, including through the curtailment of redundant or ineffective programmes. Some delegations sought assurances that the decline in resources would not affect the quality of programme delivery, the Commissions's capacity for coordination and activities related to regional cooperation.

4. Some delegations called on the secretariat of ECA, taking advantage of its unique position to contribute to the development of Africa, to endeavour further to develop a new African strategy for development, promote intraregional trade and strengthen and improve its database. They also pointed to the need for ECA to evaluate its work from time to time and, among other things, to continue to implement the relevant recommendations contained in the report of the Office of Internal Oversight Services on the programme and administrative practices of the regional commissions (A/49/891).

5. Some delegations expressed their preference for the activities of the African Institute for Economic Development and Planning (IDEP) to be funded through the regular budget to ascertain its viability and continuity.

Conclusions and recommendations

6. The Committee recommended that the General Assembly approve the programme narrative of section 15, Economic Commission for Africa, of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1996-1997.